

Aldridge & Beacon Area Partnership Area Manager Report

– updated 7th April 2014

Ongoing Updates on the Actions for Aldridge & Beacon Area

1. Purpose of the report

This report seeks to inform the elected members of the Aldridge & Beacon Area Partnership of work carried out within the area. The information in the report was correct at the time of writing, 7th April 2014.

2. Recommendation

The Area Panel is requested to note the contents of this report.

3. Work Stream priority – Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour

Responsible Members – Councillor Bird & Councillor Murray

Partners Involved – Area Partnerships, Clean & Green, Walsall Housing Group, Safer Walsall Partnership, WM Fire Service, West Midlands Police, IYPSS, Streetly Neighbourhood Watch, Aldridge Neighbourhood Watch, North Aldridge Neighbourhood Watch, Pheasey Neighbourhood Watch

- 3.1 Closed meeting to tackle criminal damage and anti-social behaviour at the following locations:-
 - a) Myatt Avenue, Aldridge
 - b) Friezland Lane, Walsall Wood
 - c) Bridgwater Close, Walsall Wood
 - d) Oak Park Leisure Centre, Walsall Wood (23/01/2014)

- 3.2 Visits to the Police Safe House to reduce fear of crime, plus presentation on protecting you and your property
 - a) Over 400 people from the Aldridge & Beacon area have visited the safe house
 - b) More scheduled trips organised for late 2013 & early 2014
 - c) There is a new schedule available for the first quarter of 2014 (Jan-Mar)

- 3.3 Organised Police Safe House Roadshow for the local resident of Pheasey (at Beacon Church on Wednesday, 3rd July) to encourage Pheasey residents to engage with the safe house and to offer safety advice to the local community

- 3.4 Financed the Proactive Police Team (£1,000) that led on proactive police work around burglaries and other crimes in our area

- 3.5 Funded the installation of gating and fencing in Dumblederry Lane, Aldridge to reduce levels of anti-social behaviour in the area
- 3.6 Deployed CCTV cameras at the following locations to monitor and help reduce anti-social behaviour:-
- a) Collingwood Drive, Pheasey (redeployed on 20th November, 2013)
 - b) Blakemore Road, Walsall Wood
 - c) Brickyard Road, Aldridge
 - d) Westbrook Avenue, Aldridge
 - e) Middlemore Lane, Aldridge
 - f) Broad Meadow, Aldridge
 - g) Anchor Road, Aldridge
 - h) High Street, Aldridge
 - i) Salters Road, Walsall Wood
 - j) Marklew Close, Aldridge
 - k) Hepburn Close, Aldridge
 - l) Waverley Avenue, Pheasey (from 16/8/13)
 - m) Myatt Avenue, Aldridge (from October, 2013)
 - n) Beacon Road, Pheasey (from October, 2013)
- 3.7 Car Key Crime awareness, along with Safer Walsall Partnership and West Midlands Police, working with local residents to target harden around car key burglaries (funding £500)
- 3.8 Operation Doorstep, along with Trading Standards and West Midlands Police, working with local residents to target harden around bogus callers and rogue traders (funding £1,000).
- a) Streetly – 24.7.13
 - Grove Way
 - Inglewood Grove
 - Nicholas Road
 - b) Pheasey – 16.7.13
 - Daffodil Road
 - Appledore Road
 - Raeburn Road
 - Wimperis way
 - Nevison Grove
 - Moreton Avenue
- 3.9 Raising awareness through engagement:-
- a) Attended a number of Neighbourhood Watch meetings
 - b) Attended a number of Tenants & Resident Association meetings
 - c) Attend the Aldridge Village Business Partnership meetings
- 3.10 Organised Community & Citizenship Day for:-
- a) Walsall Wood Primary School, Walsall Wood on 23rd April, 2013

b) Castlefort Primary School, Walsall Wood

c) Meadow View School, Pheasey on 20th September, 2013

d) Organising for Pheasey Park Farm School, Pheasey for Spring term 2014

- 3.11 Closed the gate at Hay Head Wood (14/8/13) due to escalating incidents of unacceptable inappropriate behaviour. Police to carry out high visibility controls in the area. Reopened the gate from 11th September, organised a site visit on the 16th September and took report with recommendations to Area Panel on the 1st October, 2013. Gate remains open.
- 3.12 Worked with Crime Reduction Officer on anti-social behaviour and criminal damage at Collingwood Centre car park, Pheasey.
- 3.13 Organising another Police Safe House Roadshow at St. Martin's Church, for early 2014. A date is to be set for late February, 2014
- 3.14 Funded £4000 (WHG funded a further £6,215) for gating and fencing around the Bridgewater & Wyre Close estate in Walsall Wood, to reduce instances of crime and anti-social behaviour and also the fear of crime from local residents
- 3.15 Funded £337.50 to repair our Domehawk camera and enable its deployment in our area
- 3.16 Funded £692 to repair our Domehawk camera and enable its deployment in our area
- 3.17 Attended public meeting to listen to Nether Hall Park residents raise their concerns about the off road biking / 4 x 4 vehicles on nearby land. Setting up a Task & Finish Group to tackle the problems
- 3.18 Facilitated Task & Finish group for issues with Aldridge Community Centre Car Park. This has now ended due to a satisfactory conclusion and the issue has been tackled
- 3.19 Deployed flashing CCTV sign on Middlemore Lane to alert of cameras at the Aldridge Community Centre
- 3.20 Funded £2,200 to erect palastrade fencing to the rear of properties in Moreton Avenue, Pheasey to reduce the risk of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour

4. **Work Stream priority – Positive Activities for Young People**

Responsible Members – Councillor Flower & Councillor Hughes

Partners Involved – Area Partnerships, Safer Walsall Partnership, WM Fire Service, West Midlands Police, IYPSS, Streetly Networking Group, Aldridge Networking Group, Walsall Wood Networking Group, Streetly Children’s Centre, Pheasey Park Farm Children’s Centre, Leighswood Children’s Centre, Community Development, Streetly Community Association, Clean & Green

- 4.1 Funded the summer activities programme to the tune of £1,685 (2012)
- 4.2 Funded the Reach-Up Tower and The Move for the Doe Bank Park Fun Day (£276)
- 4.3 Funded Streetly Community Association (£280) for Reach Up Tower for their Diamond Jubilee Celebration Family Event
- 4.4 Funded St. Thomas' Church, Aldridge (£224) for the Reach Up Tower for their Celebration Family Event
- 4.5 Thanks to the power of the Safer Walsall Question Time IYPSS/ Greenspaces are looking at installing new youth shelter in Walsall Wood
- 4.6 Funded purchase of marquee for Walsall Wood Scouts (£1,800) for their weekend activities and trips away from home to build the character of the youngsters and give them new experiences
- 4.7 Funded St. Thomas' Playgroup, Aldridge £2,000 for new equipment, enabling them to set up new playgroups for younger ages
- 4.8 Funded The Hothouse, Aldridge (contribution of £3,000 to attract external funding of £34,250) to help refurbish the centre and provide new activities for the youngsters using the facility
- 4.9 Funded £600 for a summer theatre workshop at Aldridge Youth Theatre (August, 2012)
- 4.10 Working closely with Sports Development on the Walsall Get Active initiative
- 4.11 Regular visits to local school to engage with the pupils through school assemblies, school councils and school parliaments
- 4.12 Regular attendance at CAP meetings (Aldridge, Streetly, Brownhills & Walsall Wood and Pheasey & Paddock)
- 4.13 First "Young Street Champion" event took place at Castlefort JMI School, Walsall Wood
- 4.14 Funded £750 to Streetly Cricket Club for the purchase of new equipment to introduce boys and girls to cricket and sports in the age categories 8 to 16 years
- 4.15 Funded £280 for The Move truck to be at the “Picnic In The Park” event in Streetly (7/7/13)

- 4.16 Funded £230 for the Reach-Up Tower for the Doe Bank Park Fun Day (21/8/13)
- 4.17 Funded Aldridge Youth Theatre to the tune of £750 for a summer workshop (August, 2013)
- 4.18 Funded £480 to local libraries (Pheasey / Streetly / Aldridge & Walsall Wood) to run activities around Animal Antics, to provide children with hands-on interactive experience of exotic animals. This is to attract children into the libraries to take part in the summer reading challenge
- 4.19 Funded £960 for two events in Aldridge to have the Reach Up Tower and The Move truck in attendance. Those events are the Aldridge Fayre (June, 2013) and Aldridge Christmas Market (30th November, 2013)
- 4.20 Funded £300 to the Collingwood Centre to allow them to purchase BBQ equipment, to allow the young people attending the centre to carry out BBQ events during the summer
- 4.21 Funded Pheasey Park Farm school £2,000 for equipment to allow them to run a number of "after school" activities, including water polo, hockey, tennis, rugby, netball, rounders, basketball, cricket, athletics and football
- 4.22 Funded "Motivate Me" £1,360 to provide 5 days of activities during the October Half-Term school holidays, with sessions available in Walsall Wood, Aldridge, and Streetly
- 4.23 Funded £200 to the Police Amateur Boxing Club for vouchers to hand out to youngsters in the Oak Park / Walsall Wood area to get them interested in the disciplined sport of Boxing
- 4.24 Organised a "BBQ in the Park" event in Blackwood Park, Streetly during October Half-Term
- 4.25 Funded £180 to cover "Chatterbooks" activity sessions at Aldridge Library for groups of 7-11 year old children to meet up and discuss what books they had read
- 4.26 Organising another "Citizenship & Community Day" at St. John's School, Walsall Wood in July, working with partners to showcase the theme of safety for the pupils during the summer holiday

5. Work Stream priority – Cleaner Streets & Greener Spaces

Responsible Members – Councillor Harris & Councillor Rochelle

Partners involved – Walsall Housing Group, Area Partnerships, Clean & Green, Street Champions, Pheasey Park Farm School, Meadow View School, Countryside Services, Environmental Health, Friends of Doe Bank Park, Friends of Blackwood Park, Blackwood Pavilion User Group

- 5.1 Funded fencing repairs at Berryfields Park, Aldridge to the tune of £850
- 5.2 Opened the gate at Hay Head Wood Nature Reserve
- 5.3 Pheasey is the pilot area for a Dog Fouling initiative, incorporating dedicated phone hotline, poster campaign involving schools, and free dog poo bags for dog walkers. Campaign includes
 - Poster competition with local primary schools to produce A3 and A4 posters
 - Poster competition with local primary schools to produce A5 flyers
 - Dedicated telephone hotline set up – 01922 653399 (funding £750 to set up)
 - Purchased bespoke dog poo bags to distribute to dog owners in the Pheasey area
- 5.4 Funded the installation of a style in Doe Bank Park, Pheasey in response to complaints from park users about the lack of pedestrian entry on to the park
- 5.5 Funded a litter bin on Hardwick Road, Streetly (£250)
- 5.6 Co-financed the installation of 6 litter bins (£720 + co-financing from Greenspaces) in and around Doe Bank Park, Pheasey
- 5.7 Set up and funded Blackwood Pavilion User Group, Streetly. Funded the group £2,000 to help them start up, within the first year they have attracted almost £1,000 in revenue from pavilion hire, including children's parties, drop-in sessions, Children's Centre activities, Baby Yoga and Pre-School activities
- 5.8 Organising litter pick with local Barr Beacon school for Doe Bank Park, Pheasey
- 5.9 Organising cemetery clean up with local Co-op store in Walsall Wood
- 5.10 Working with our local Street Champions, we have around 15 in the Aldridge & Beacon area
- 5.11 Young Street Champion event organised at Castlefort JMI School, Walsall Wood
- 5.12 Worked with Pheasey Park Farm Primary School regarding their urban fox issue
- 5.13 Funded £5,000 to renovate Blackwood Park, Streetly. Attracting £16,000 of match-funding from Greenspaces, the paths will be resurfaced, a new footpath network will provide suitable footpaths and help facilitate submission of a Green Flag award due to the improvements made using this funding to the access and facilities of the park
- 5.14 Funded £290 to supply and install a general purpose litter bin in Anchor Road, Aldridge

6. **Work Stream priority – Support & Activities for the Over 50s**

Responsible Members – Councillor Towe & Councillor Clarke

Partners Involved – Adult Social Care, Adult Safeguarding, West Midlands Police, NHS Walsall, Walsall Housing Group, Welfare Rights, Benefits, Age UK, Co-Op Funeral Care, Independence 4U, Blackwood PRG, Northgate PRG, Streetly Networking Group, Aldridge Networking Group, Walsall Wood Networking Group, Collingwood Centre, Beacon Church, Pheasey Park Farm Community Centre

- 6.1 Helped to set up the Streetly Dementia Support Group (Forget-Me-Not), including funding to the value of £1,000
- 6.2 Funded £1,000 (to help the church attract external funding of £44,000) to Blackwood Methodist Church, Streetly for refurbishment
- 6.3 Funded St. Martins Seniors, Pheasey £979.79 for equipment to allow them to host cinema club for older people in the area
- 6.4 Funded Brownhills & Walsall Wood Fellowship, Walsall Wood £1,048.20 to help them promote the centre to local older people to reduce the risk of social isolation
- 6.5 Organised over 30 localisation events across the area, utilising the First Stop Express bus, together with partner agencies, to offer a local presence to local people to access information and report issues
- 6.6 Funded Sunnymead Way Tenants & Residents Association to help them furnish their community room (we funded £1,000, WHG funded £2,468)
- 6.7 Funded £250 to the Collingwood Centre, Pheasey towards their costs for their annual Christmas event
- 6.8 Funded the purchase and installation of 2 notice boards for Pheasey Library, making it easier for the area to advertise local events for the local residents
- 6.9 Organised a number of drop-ins around the Welfare & Benefit changes, with sessions run at Walsall Wood, Aldridge and Pheasey (on the 25th March)
- 6.10 Work closely with the area social workers with vulnerable individuals
- 6.11 Offer trips to the Independent Living Centre to see demonstrations of their aids and adaptations
- 6.12 Regular community engagement by visiting coffee mornings, local groups, local churches, local community centres and addressing their audiences
- 6.13 Working towards energy saving utility switching available to our residents

- 6.14 Funded £267.89 to Streetly Horticultural Society for the purchase of a public address system, which will enable the group to have guest speakers at their meetings and events
- 6.15 Funded £3,669.77 to Pheasey Park Farm Community Centre to repair their ballroom floor, which was vital to the centre to allow it to run its programme of community events
- 6.16 Funded £1,200 to St. Anne's Coffee Morning towards coach hire to enable local residents who attend St. Anne's Coffee Morning to travel and socialise, thus avoiding social isolation
- 6.17 Funded £2,362.50 to Streetly Community Association for 150 new chairs for use in the community centre building
- 6.18 Funded £1,500 to Anchorage Over 55 Club for a defibrillator and associated equipment, to assist anyone who uses the building (they have many "over 50s" groups operate from the building) and becomes ill whilst attending the centre
- 6.19 Funded £600 to Aldridge Friendly Club towards transportation costs to help reduce the impact of social isolation in Aldridge
- 6.20 Funded £6,000 to refurbish the public toilets in Aldridge centre
- 6.21 Funded £1,000 for advertising of all Pheasey Community & Voluntary groups, advertising includes 2 editions of all 3 Pioneer Magazines, which have an outreach to over 45,000 homes across Walsall and Great Barr

7. Work Stream priority – Road & Pavement Safety & Maintenance

Responsible Member – Councillor Andrew & Councillor Wilson

Partners Involved – Road Works Management, Highways, Transportation, Walsall Housing Group, Area Partnerships, Clean & Green, Leighswood School, West Midlands Police, Centro

- 7.1 Co-financed (along with Blackwood Library & St. Anne's Primary School) low level fencing along grass verge outside of library and St. Anne's School to stop cars from parking on the grass verge, thus reducing the risk of accidents with cars having to cross the pavement in order to park on the grass (funded £1,258.87, £2,000 from St. Anne's and Blackwood Library)
- 7.2 Working closely with Leighswood School, Aldridge to help sort out their school parking issues (alongside the police and Highways)
- 7.3 A number of roads in the Aldridge area have been resurfaced in the past 12 months, including Northgate, High Street, Anchor Road and Leighswood Road
- 7.4 Consultation at Area Community meeting to help shape the local arrangements for the winter maintenance schedule
- 7.5 Funded renovations to the Elms Island in Aldridge, improving the road markings and chevrons on the island (£4,648.16)
- 7.6 Funded "The Croft Crossing", Aldridge, £4,975 of Area Partnerships funding attracted external funding from Section 106 and Community Spaces of £59,881.34
- 7.7 Traffic and parking issues around Leighswood school, Broad Meadow, Aldridge
- 7.8 Introduce Participatory Budgeting within Area Partnerships to allow local residents to have a say and influence local decision making. Grass Verge Parking is the subject that will be taken forward

8. Work Stream priority – Improving Health

Responsible Members – Councillor Sears & Councillor Douglas-Maul

Partners Involved – NHS Walsall, MyNHS Walsall, Public Health, Blackwood PRG, Northgate PRG, Area Partnerships, Aldridge Networking Group, Streetly Networking Group, Walsall Wood Networking Group, Walsall Housing Group

- 8.1 Organised a "Living Well In Pheasey" event to showcase local services for older people in the Pheasey area (funded to the tune of £200)
- 8.2 Organised a "Living Well in Walsall Wood" event to showcase local services for older people in the Walsall Wood area
- 8.3 Organised a "Family Fit 'n' Fun Day" in Walsall Wood (31st March, 2012) which was attended by over 700 people (funded to the tune of £1,500)
- 8.4 Organised a "Family Fit 'n' Fun Day" in Aldridge (13th August, 2012) which was attended by over 300 people (funded to the tune of £1,500)
- 8.5 Organised a "Family Fit 'n' Fun Day" in Pheasey (20th October, 2012) which was attended by over 400 people (funded to the tune of £1,500)
- 8.6 Organised LGA "Health Is Everyone's Business" event at Druid Heath Golf Club, which was attended by over 70 people, many of them local residents who volunteer their time to help run local groups in the area
- 8.7 Set up a Streetly Networking Group, which was the result of the LGA event as the outcome from that event was to set up peer support groups
- 8.8 Set up a Walsall Wood Networking Group, a result of the LGA event (to set up peer support groups)
- 8.9 Set up an Aldridge Networking Group, as above a result of the LGA event to set up these groups
- 8.10 In the process of setting up a Pheasey Networking Group, again a result of the LGA event (to set up peer support groups)
- 8.11 Organised a "Family Fit 'n' Fun Day" in Walsall Wood (11th May, 2013) (funding to the tune of £1,500)
- 8.12 Organising a "Family Fit 'n' Fun Day" in Aldridge (13th July, 2013) (funding to the tune of £1,500)
- 8.13 Blackwood Patient Representative Group organised Health Event for Saturday, 6th April
- 8.14 Organised a "Community Awareness Event" at the Streetly Community Association on Sunday, 23rd June, funded to the tune of £1,500. Over 300 local residents attended
- 8.15 Funded a "Community & Information Day" at the Collingwood Centre to the tune of £1,500 (August, 2013). Over 400 local residents attended
- 8.16 Funded Dance It Studios £191.39 towards promotion of a new initiative, Argentine Tango, in the Walsall Wood area to introduce dancing and encourage greater participation in dance

8.17 Maintaining social media, such as Facebook and Twitter.

June 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– “Let’s Do It In Streetly” – 77 likes– “Let’s Do It In Aldridge” – 275 likes– “Let’s Do It In Walsall Wood” – 115 likes– “Let’s Do It In Pheasey” – 13 likes– Facebook friends = 310– Twitter followers = 351
September 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– “Let’s Do It In Streetly” – 93 likes– “Let’s Do It In Aldridge” – 299 likes– “Let’s Do It In Walsall Wood” – 131 likes– “Let’s Do It In Pheasey” – 18 likes– Facebook friends = 331– Twitter followers = 390
November 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– “Let’s Do It In Streetly” – 95 likes– “Let’s Do It In Aldridge” – 313 likes– “Let’s Do It In Walsall Wood” – 134 likes– “Let’s Do It In Pheasey” – 20 likes– Facebook friends = 355– Twitter followers = 407
January 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– “Let’s Do It In Streetly” – 102 likes– “Let’s Do It In Aldridge” – 326 likes– “Let’s Do It In Walsall Wood” – 134 likes– “Let’s Do It In Pheasey” – 20 likes– Facebook friends = 357– Twitter followers = 423
April 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– “Let’s Do It In Streetly” – 127 likes– “Let’s Do It In Aldridge” – 373 likes– “Let’s Do It In Walsall Wood” – 178 likes– “Let’s Do It In Pheasey” – 27 likes– Facebook friends = 370– Twitter followers = 434

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